



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES  
**JERUSALEM**

U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE

# WEEKLY MAILING

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**Official Websites:**

<http://jerusalem.usconsulate.gov>

<http://arabic.jerusalem.usconsulate.gov>

<http://gaza.usvpp.gov>

<http://arabic.gaza.usvpp.gov>

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**Thank You!**

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## **President Obama's Proclamation on African- American History Month 2012**



"The story of African Americans is a story of resilience and perseverance. It traces a people who refused to accept the circumstances under which they arrived on these shores, and it chronicles the generations who fought for an America that truly reflects the ideals enshrined in our founding documents. It is the narrative of slaves who shepherded others along the path to freedom and preachers who organized against the rules of Jim Crow, of young people who sat-in at lunch counters and ordinary men and women who took extraordinary risks to change our Nation for the better.

During National African American History Month, we celebrate the rich legacy of African Americans and honor the remarkable contributions they have made to perfecting our Union."



## America House in Jerusalem

is pleased to invite you to the following upcoming programs in Jerusalem

### ***A Musical Evening to Remember!***



February 12, 2012, 6:00 PM

Join America House and the Magnificat Institute in Jerusalem for an enchanted musical evening featuring a mix of classical and spiritual music with special guest and U.S. Arts Envoy Nicole Taylor, Soprano, accompanied by Daniel Ernst and Magnificat students. Admission is free!

St. Saviour's Monastery Auditorium  
(New Gate, Terra Sancta, Jerusalem)

To learn more about Nicole Taylor's work, please visit: <http://www.nicole-taylor.com/>

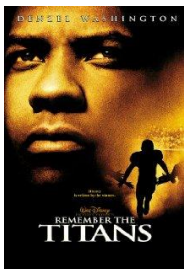
### **Also Coming Up in February!**

#### **Focus on the U.S. Presidential Election System:**

Digital Video Conference on Arab-American Participation in the Presidential Election Process

#### **Black History Month Film Screening and Lecture:**

##### *Remember the Titans*



In the southern U.S., two racially segregated high schools are closed and all of the students sent to T.C. Williams High School under federal mandate to integrate. The year is seen through the eyes of the football team. Based on the actual events of 1971, the team becomes the unifying symbol for the community as the boys and the adults learn to depend on and trust each other.

To be added to America House's mailing list, please e-mail [JerusalemAmericaHouse@state.gov](mailto:JerusalemAmericaHouse@state.gov)

America House is the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem's cultural center in East Jerusalem and was established in 2010.

## Graduation Ceremony Concludes MEPI IT and Finance Training Program



On January 24, the U.S. Consulate General's Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) team attended the Ramallah Graduation of the MEPI-funded Education for Employment (EFE) IT and Finance Training program. During the ceremony, 36 Palestinians from Palestinian or Jordanian universities, who undertook the training program, received graduation certificates.

The training focused on workplace relationship skills, business English, and technical training. MEPI representative Amy Smith stated during the ceremony: "MEPI programs such as this one will help build the professional expertise of the IT and finance sectors in Palestinian society."

The EFE training program resulted in the successful employment of many of the graduates in Palestinian banks and IT companies.

## Palestinian Youth Empowerment and Volunteerism Training

The U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem launched a series of training workshops on leadership and life skills for 100 Palestinian youths to encourage a spirit of volunteerism and civic engagement, as part of a U.S. Consulate-funded project entitled, "Palestinian Youth Empowerment and Volunteerism Program (PYEVP)."

The project aims to train youth between the ages of 18-25 on how to propose, organize and implement youth-led community initiatives in the West Bank and Jerusalem. Over the next several months, the participants will receive 90 hours of training in communications, presentation skills, leadership and community engagement, public speaking, proposal writing, fundraising, ICT/digital and social media, events management, basic exhibit curation, networking, marketing and presentation.

The training will conclude with youth-led community service initiatives that will give participants an opportunity to design, propose and implement community projects, and a certificate will be provided at the successful completion of training.



Each February, Black History Month honors the struggles and triumphs of millions of American citizens over the most devastating obstacles: slavery, prejudice, poverty, as well as their contributions to the nation's cultural and political life.

Though African-Americans continue to face challenges, Black History Month is an opportunity to celebrate their achievements and contributions to U.S. society.

The Association for the Study of African American Life has selected "Black Women in American Culture and History" as the 2012 theme for Black History Month to illuminate the diverse achievements of contemporary African-American women in U.S. society.

### **A New Generation of Black Women Leaders**

While earlier generations of African-American women had few career options, the U.S. civil rights movement and the push for women's equality have created opportunities for black women in virtually any field. Today, African-American women excel in business, medicine, science, literature, the law, academia and numerous other callings.

### **جيل جديد من النساء السود القيادات**

في حين لم يكن للجيل المبكر من النساء الأمريكيات الأفريقيات سوى فسحة ضيقة للانخراط في حياة مهنية، فإن الحركة الأميركية لحقوق المدنية والضغط من أجل المساواة للمرأة خلقا فرصاً للنساء السود في كل ميدان تقريباً. واليوم تبذل النساء الأمريكيات الأفريقيات في الأعمال التجارية والطب والعلوم والقانون والوسط الأكاديمي وفي كثير غيرها من المجالات.

#### **See Also:**

**[U.S. State Department Celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)**

**[Secretary Sebelius on African-American History Month](#)**

**See the Black History Month  
Female Changemakers' videos:**

**[La'Shanda Holmes](#)**

**[Majora Carter](#)**

**[Erica Williams](#)**

## **2012 Election Cycle Begins Now**



**For American Citizens!**

***Be an active voter!*** Start thinking about your participation in the U.S. 2012 elections today!

The Consular Section staff at the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem is ready to assist with completing your Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) -- the form you need to complete this year to participate in the 2012 elections as an overseas absentee voter. Our purpose is to inform and educate you about your voting rights, to ensure you are able to exercise your right to participate in elections for federal offices (president, vice president, senator, and representative), and to assist you with voting in state or local elections, if allowed by your state.

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### **American Electorate Has New Face for 2012 Race**

Data from the 2010 census show the minority population in the United States increased over the last decade by 30 percent (Hispanics by 43 percent), while the white population grew 1 percent. The dramatic difference in growth rates means communities of color accounted for 92 percent of the U.S. population growth between 2000 and 2010. The 2010 minority share of the population was 36 percent, up more than 5 percentage points from 2000.

### **هيئة الناخبين الأميركيين تتخذ وجها جديدا في انتخابات العام 2012**

إذ تبين المعلومات المتوفرة من إحصاء العام 2010 أن الأقليات السكانية في الولايات المتحدة قد نمت خلال العقد الماضي من الزمن وزادت بنسبة 30 بالمئة (السكان من أصل لاتيني زادوا بنسبة 43 بالمئة) في حين أن زيادة عدد السكان البيض كانت 1 (واحدا) بالمئة. ويعني هذا الاختلاف الهائل بين معدلات النمو أن مجتمعات السكان الملونين شكلت نسبة 92 بالمئة من معدل نمو سكان الولايات المتحدة بين العامين 2000 و 2010. وكان نصيب الأقليات من السكان في العام 2010 يشكل نسبة 36 بالمئة، أي بزيادة 5 بالمئة عما كان في العام 2000.

Join [WEBCAST: Analyzing the U.S. Election Primary Season](#) on February 10, 2012



### **[U.S. Department of State Hosts Tech@State: Real-Time Awareness Conference](#)**

The U.S. Department of State will host a symposium focusing on how social media and other internet-enabled data streams are used to create real-time awareness in different contexts at the Tech@State: Real-Time Awareness conference on February 3 - 4, 2012.

The event will be streamed live online at <http://www.livestream.com/techstate>.

Participants can also follow the conference on Twitter via hashtag #TechAtState and through @eDipAtState, @StateDept, and @TechAtState.



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### **[The White House Google Science Projects Fair](#)**

Three innovative science projects won the first-ever Google Science Fair last year, and now students around the world have another chance to win scholarships and a trip to the Galapagos Islands. The new competition is open until March 30, and entries can be submitted in 13 different languages.

The fair challenges students to investigate real-world problems. Ninety finalists will be chosen from three regions (30 finalists from each): the Americas; Europe/Middle East/Africa; and the Asia-Pacific. There is also a “Science in Action” award for a project that addresses a social, environmental or health issue and makes a practical difference in people's lives.

The 2011 contest, conducted only in the English language, had about 7,500 entries from 91 countries. Shown here are the winners with President Obama. Grand prize winner Shree Bose of Texas (second from right) discovered a way to improve ovarian cancer treatment. Lauren Hodge (right) of Pennsylvania found that certain marinades reduce potentially harmful carcinogens in grilled chicken. And Naomi Shah of Oregon studied the effects of air quality on people with asthma.



See the [White House blog entry on the 2011 science fair winners](#)

### [Between the Lines Program](#)

In cooperation with the prestigious International Writing Program (IWP) and Iowa Young Writers Studio (IYWS), ECA's Cultural Programs Division is pleased to announce that the fifth session of Between the Lines (BTL) will take place July 14-28, 2012. This two-week cultural exchange program will host 12 writers ages 16-19 from Arabic-speaking countries in the Middle East and North Africa for a two-week residency at the University of Iowa from July 14-28, 2012.

**Deadline: February 13, 2012**

### [2012 TechWomen Program](#)

The US Consulate General in Jerusalem and Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) is pleased to announce the TechWomen program for 2012, a professional exchange program to support women from the Middle East and North Africa engaged in technology. TechWomen is a high profile program for ECA, and Secretary Clinton herself not only launched the program, but also met with the first group of participants at the Department of State last summer.

**Deadline: February 15, 2012**

### [2012 TechGirls Program](#)

The U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem is pleased to announce the inaugural TechGirls program, an educational exchange initiative for approximately 25 teenage girls from select countries and territories in the Middle East and North Africa that complements the TechWomen program. The eligible countries are Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian territories, Tunisia, and Yemen.

**Deadline: March 6, 2012**

### ["Doors to Diplomacy" 2012 International Web Project Competition for Middle and High School Students:](#)

The Department of State and the Global SchoolNet Foundation announce the 2012 "Doors to Diplomacy" award competition, recognizing the student-created Global SchoolNet Web projects from around the globe that best teach others about the importance of international affairs and diplomacy. To qualify, middle school and high school students will work in small teams with teacher-coaches. **Projects must be completed by March 15, 2012**, and winners will be announced in May 2012. Every team that enters a project will receive a special "Doors to Diplomacy" certificate recognizing their achievement. Each student member of the two winning teams – one American and one international – will also receive a \$2,000 scholarship and the winning coaches' schools will each receive a \$500 cash award.

**Deadline: March 15, 2012.**

For a complete description of the competition and information about eligibility and judging criteria, please visit <http://globalschoolnet.org/gsndoors/>. For more information, contact Dr. Yvonne Marie Andres of Global SchoolNet by phone at (760) 635-0001 or by e-mail at [diplomacy@globalschoolnet.org](mailto:diplomacy@globalschoolnet.org) or Wanda Ramsey of the Department of State by e-mail at [RamseyWC@state.gov](mailto:RamseyWC@state.gov).

### [USG Department of State Citizen Exchanges Program](#)

The applicants must be citizens of Jordan, Egypt, Israel or the Palestinian Territories, and cannot hold dual US citizenship. Emerging professionals (roughly an age range of 25-40) and would prefer some professional experience and evidence for advancement in their field. A successful applicant will have excellent English skills. The program is fully paid (travel, meals, and lodging) for and includes generous book and cultural entertainment allowances.

**Deadline: October 31, 2012.**

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## International and Regional News

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[State Department on Violence at Egyptian Football Match](#)

[بيان لوزارة الخارجية حول أعمال العنف في مصر عقب مباراة لكرة القدم](#)

[Secretary Clinton to U.N.: Act on Syria or Be Complicit in Violence](#)

[كلينتون أمام مجلس الأمن: اتخذوا إجراء بشأن سوريا وإلا ستكونوا متواطئين في أعمال العنف](#)

[Secretary Clinton on Escalation of Regime Violence in Syria](#)

[بيان وزيرة الخارجية كلينتون حول تصعيد النظام السوري لأعمال العنف](#)

[Ambassador Rice at U.N. Security Council Debate on Middle East](#)

[السفيرة رايس أثناء مداوالت مجلس الأمن الدولي حول الشرق الأوسط](#)

[President Obama Has Overseen Major Shifts in U.S. Foreign Policy](#)

[أوباما يُجرى تحولات رئيسية في السياسة الخارجية للولايات المتحدة](#)

[U.S., Egyptian Officials Announce Efforts to Increase Trade Ties](#)

[المسؤولون الأميركيون والمصريون يعلنون تكثيف الجهود الرامية لتعزيز العلاقات التجارية](#)

[Secretary Clinton on International Holocaust Remembrance Day](#)

[بيان للوزيرة كلينتون بمناسبة اليوم العالمي لذكرى المحرقة النازية \(الهولوكوست\)](#)

[President Obama on International Holocaust Remembrance Day](#)